

# FIRE WATCH



JUNE 2025



# Residential Fire Sprinkler Trailer Demonstrations

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) offers a free, interactive outreach opportunity with its Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer. This mobile unit provides a compelling demonstration showcasing the speed and effectiveness of fire sprinkler systems in controlling fires. It is an impactful way to educate your community on home fire safety in a controlled and safe environment. In May, SFMO staff traveled to Wenatchee and Deer Park to attend events and educate communities on the benefits of residential fire sprinklers.



Spokane County Fire District 4's Home Fire Sprinkler Awareness Week Safety Event, May 17, 2025



Washington State Firefighter's Association Annual Conference, May 16, 2025

## Fire Prevention Bureau New Employees



Greg Petschauer was hired as a Deputy State Fire Marshal (DSFM) in May 2025 in the Education, Enforcement, and Analytics section of the Fire Prevention Division. Before joining the SFMO Greg spent 21 years in the U.S. Air Force as a KC-135 aircrew member and liaison to the U.S. Army. After retiring, Greg briefly joined the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) as a Project Manager for the Behavioral Health Administration. He has a background in operations, standardization, and education. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, fishing, and reading.



Audrey Pelczar was hired as an Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal (ADSFM) in May 2025 in the Education, Enforcement, and Analytics section of the Fire Prevention Division. Audrey will assist with the investigations program. Before joining the SFMO, ADSFM Pelczar was a social worker with DSHS. In her free time, she enjoys horseback riding and hiking.

# October 2025 - Washington State's Transitioning to NERIS

The National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) is set to be implementing in Washington State in October 2025. This new national platform is for fire departments across the country to document incident response. NERIS will provide a modernized data platform for improved incident reporting and data management, replacing the current system, National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), which is slated to be fully decommissioned in 2026.

## How NERIS Will Benefit Washington Fire Departments

NERIS offers a more robust platform than the national legacy system, and it equips departments with near real time data at the local, state, and national levels. These enhancements will allow fire departments to capture more detailed incident types, on scene actions, and timestamps associated with incident milestones, providing a richer story around departmental response, including capturing critical post-arrival actions and mutual and automatic aid response.

Multi-hazard reporting in NERIS improves the way incidents are documented, allowing departments to log more accurate details to better reflect the varied types of incidents. Users will also find new data schemas for community risk reduction (CRR) and health and safety efforts. The expanded CRR schemas will help drive better decision-making around all types of risk, including more information on home visits, community events, parcel data collection, and hydrant inspection. The information surrounding the great work done by firefighters to prevent and mitigate emergencies has never been told consistently before, and it's critical to telling that story.

Departments and states will be able to log CRR programs and community events, as well as inspections on parcels and hydrants, directly into NERIS. This data will be then tagged or geospatially linked with incidents that occur within similar areas, highlighting current and legacy hazards to assist departments in identifying resource needs. These CRR programs are more than just traditional fire prevention programs.

## Preparing for Your Department's Transition to NERIS

For most departments, onboarding to NERIS will be a two-part process as both departments and vendors (including CAD and RMS) prepare for the transition.

To ensure a smooth transition, departments should:

- Designate an authorized member of the organization to serve as the department's lead on NERIS. This individual can also act as the entity administrator (admin) within the system.
- Compile a list of all users in the department who will have access to NERIS. If a department is using an RMS system to access NERIS for actual submission of incidents, the users within the NERIS node itself can be limited to leadership and administrators.
- Gather essential details about the department, such as core department information (address, phone, staffing by station and unit, population protected, services delivered, etc.) and jurisdictional boundaries.
- Familiarize yourself with the rollout schedule and onboarding plan to determine the time frame(s) for your department to pivot to the system.
- Acquaint your team with the onboarding materials. See all the latest resources on the [NERIS website](#).



# October 2025 - Washington State’s Transitioning to NERIS, cont.

Finally, departments will need to confirm whether they will onboard NERIS with a third-party application (RMS) or use the NERIS collection app. If departments are using a third-party system, they can switch when the vendor is connected to the NERIS’ API and have enabled the software in their department profile. RMS platforms will need to be adjusted to work within the NERIS data format. It is recommended that departments contact their vendors about the transition to ensure smooth adoption.

Throughout the rollout period, self-onboarding tools, as well as other training and education resources, will be available. Your state fire marshal’s office has been instrumental in asking questions and helping to ensure this system meets the needs of your various agencies.

## NERIS Rollout in Washington State

Currently, there are three departments in this state that have onboarded with NERIS during the Early Adopter phases, along with well over a hundred departments nationwide. These teams have provided invaluable insights that have helped NERIS developers ensure the system meets the needs of fire teams across the state.

The rollout of NERIS in Washington will depend on a number of factors, including your desired connection to NERIS and your department’s desired timeline to make the transition. During our structured rollout of NERIS, FEMA Region 10, including Washington, will be a focus in October 2025. However, departments wishing to onboard earlier are invited to contact the NERIS team if they have a compelling reason for needing to onboard earlier.

## Onboarding Schedule

Month in 2025	# of Fire Departments
May	
FEMA Region 2	2,385
June	
FEMA Region 4	5,009
July	
FEMA Region 6	3,632
August	
FEMA Region 7	2,400
September	
FEMA Region 3	3,080
October	
FEMA Regions 1 & 10	2,496
November	
FEMA Regions 8 & 9	2,701
December	
FEMA Region 5	5,460



To find more information about when additional Washington departments will be able to onboard and other NERIS updates, please visit the NERIS website and sign up for [email updates](#).

## Learn More About NERIS

Prepare for your department’s NERIS transition now. Confirm where your department falls in the onboarding schedule and begin speaking to your RMS and other relevant vendors about the transition.

There will also be opportunities to learn more about NERIS at upcoming conferences and local events, including the Washington Fire Chiefs Association Conference in May.

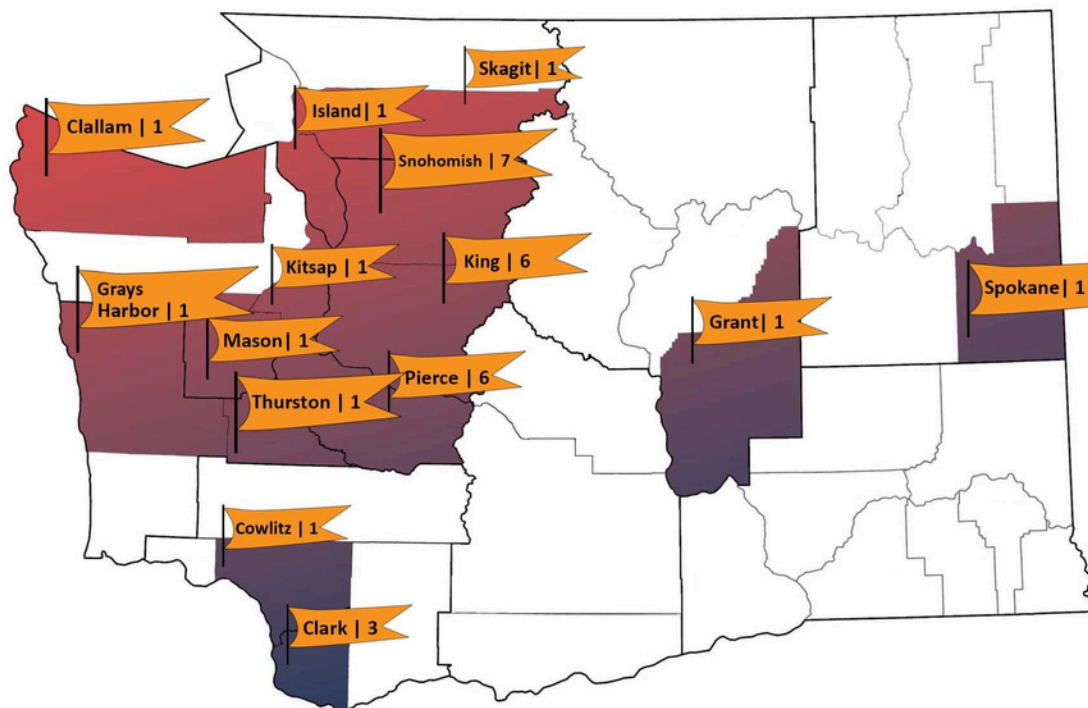
For further questions, please contact the [NERIS Information Desk](#).





# Washington Fire Fatality Statistics

January 1 – April 30, 2025



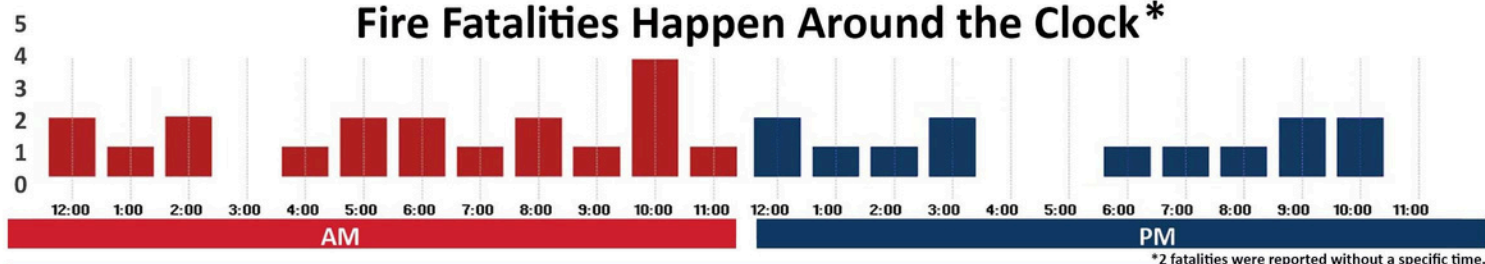
**28 %**

**Increase**

in number of fatalities  
compared to **25** in April 2024

Data is derived from reports submitted to SFMO from outside departments and their respective investigators. Subject to change as more information becomes available.

## Fire Fatalities Happen Around the Clock\*



## Property Use:

Single Family Homes - 9  
RV/Motor Homes - 7  
Other/Blank - 5  
Outdoor - 4  
Multi-family Homes - 3  
Vehicle - 2  
Manufactured Homes - 1  
Commercial - 1



## Smoke Alarms:

Unknown/Unavailable - 13  
Alarm Not Present - 11  
Alarm Present - 8



## Fire Fatalities by Age and Gender:

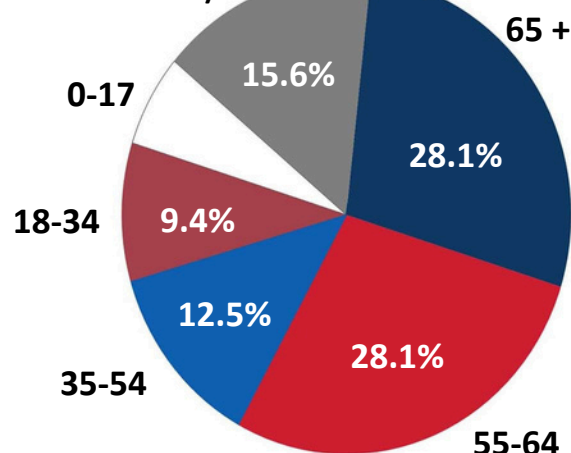
**71%  
Male**



**29%  
Female**



Unknown or N/A



# Education and Outreach Opportunities

## Free Online Sprinkler Training Available

Enhance your knowledge with our free online sprinkler system training courses, available now. These sessions are designed to help you better understand system components, inspection requirements, and maintenance essentials. The remaining courses have been adjusted to allow additional participants, so please check again for any courses that may have previously been full.

Register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AADAD2CA0FCC16-54319122-introduction#/>

## Bring Fire Safety to Life at Your Next Event — Apply to Reserve the Free Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) offers a free, interactive outreach opportunity with its Residential Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer. This mobile unit provides a compelling demonstration showcasing the speed and effectiveness of fire sprinkler systems in controlling fires. It's an impactful way to educate your community on home fire safety in a controlled and safe environment.

Ideal for public safety fairs, open houses, and community events, the trailer comes fully staffed and equipped. To request the trailer for your event, complete the reservation form and email it to [firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:firesprinkler@wsp.wa.gov).

Request the trailer here:

[Fire Sprinkler Trailer Reservation Form \(PDF\)](#).

## Community Risk Reduction

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is working to offer Community Risk Reduction (CRR) courses throughout the state. We are in the process of identifying local partners, hosts and venues for a variety of one, two and six day field classes that will be offered for free under an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Meanwhile, these free online courses offered by the National Fire Academy (NFA) provide a basis of understanding of what the Community Risk Reduction planning process looks like. They will serve as the basis of knowledge for which the in field classes will build upon.

We encourage every firefighter, prevention practitioner and fire service leader in the State to familiarize themselves with what CRR is— and what it is not, by taking these online courses. Each one takes about 5 hours to complete, and will result in NFA credits for training purposes.

Introduction to Strategic Community Risk Reduction (Q0841) is an online self-study course that empowers the learner with basic understanding of what constitutes a strategic CRR process. The course takes students approximately five hours to complete.

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10802>

Introduction to Community Risk Assessments (Q0843) is an online self-study course that provides fundamental knowledge of how to perform a basic community risk assessment. The course takes students approximately five hours to complete.

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10807>



# Bathroom Fan Caused Fire Fatality



In early May, the Vancouver Fire Department reported a fire fatality caused by electrical arcing in bathroom fan which spread fire to the apartment unit. Maintain equipment in accordance to manufactures instructors and keeping ventilation fans free of dust accumulation can reduce the risk of product failure. Keeping fan motors and vents clear of obstructions or built up grime can help prevent accidental fires that may cause harm or property loss.

## Recurring Inspection Findings

A recent review of fire and life safety inspections performed by the SFMO has highlighted a recurring compliance issue: many facilities have failed to properly restrain gas-fired commercial cooking appliances, particularly those mounted on casters. As a reminder, the 2021 International Fire Code outlines the following requirement:

### 606.4 Appliance connection to building piping

Gas-fired commercial cooking appliances installed on casters—or those moved for cleaning—must be connected to the gas piping system using a connector listed to comply with ANSI Z21.69/CSA 6.16.

These connectors must be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, and a restraining device must be in place to limit appliance movement, also per manufacturer specifications.

This code section is intended not only to prevent accidental disconnection or gas line damage during appliance movement, but also to protect the integrity of the connection during routine cleaning and sanitation.

Please ensure this item is consistently evaluated during inspections, and that facility staff understand both the safety implications and the requirement for compliance.

If you would like more information on SFMO inspection trends or information on facility maintenance training, please contact the Inspections section at 360-596-3947.



# Pre-Positioning of Firefighting Resources Now Permanent Under Washington State Law

On May 12, 2025, Governor Bob Ferguson signed House Bill 1271 (HB 1271) into law, permanently authorizing the pre-positioning of firefighting resources under RCW 43.43.960—commonly referred to as the Mobilization Act. Pre-positioning involves strategically placing additional firefighting resources in areas where increased fire activity is anticipated. While land management agencies such as the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service have utilized this approach for years, it was previously authorized at the state level only as a pilot project during the past two biennia to evaluate its cost and effectiveness.

In 2023, pre-positioned resources in Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima counties helped contain two fires in Yakima County during initial attack, preventing them from escalating into larger, costlier incidents. Those same resources were later redirected to support response efforts on the Gray and Oregon Road fires in Spokane and Stevens counties.

Although HB 1271 permanently authorizes pre-positioning, the 2025–27 Operating Budget allocates \$500,000 to support the activity. Requests for pre-positioning must be approved by the Chief of the Washington State Patrol and must specify a defined number of operational periods. Approval criteria include forecasts for weather, fire behavior, and anticipated fire or response activity.

For more information about the Mobilization Program, please contact Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Bill Slosson at (360) 596-3928 or [william.slosson@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:william.slosson@wsp.wa.gov).

## Fire Hazard Recalls: Stay Informed and Stay Safe

The SFMO has compiled a list of items currently under recall by the Consumer Product Safety Commission due to fire or burn hazards. As these products pose potential risks to safety, it is important to stay informed. Please review the following list to help ensure your safety and take appropriate action if any of these items are in your possession.

- **DEMDACO Maril Brand Scented Candles**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/DEMDACO-Recalls-Maril-Brand-Scented-Candles-Due-to-Laceration-and-Fire-Hazards>

- **Yamaha Corporation of America Power Adaptors for Digital Pianos and Music Workstations**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Yamaha-Corporation-of-America-Recalls-Power-Adaptors-for-Digital-Pianos-and-Music-Workstations-Due-to-Burn-and-Fire-Hazards>

- **Kohl's Tea Light Candle Holders**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Kohls-Recalls-Tea-Light-Candle-Holders-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

- **Baseus Portable Chargers**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Baseus-Portable-Chargers-Recalled-Due-to-Fire-Hazard-Sold-on-Amazon-com-by-Shenzhen-Baseus-Technology>

- **Santa Cruz Electric Bicycles**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Santa-Cruz-Bicycles-Recalls-Electric-Bicycles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

- **Casely Wireless Portable Power Banks**

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2025/Casely-Recalls-Wireless-Portable-Power-Banks-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards>

For more information and to search for recalls on specific products, please visit:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>





# Fireworks Retail Stand Inspection Training

The SFMO hosted two courses designed to familiarize Authority Having Jurisdictions with how to conduct a retail stand inspection, recognize the difference between legal and illegal fireworks, and how a fireworks display is setup and fired. Partnering with TNT Fireworks and Wolverine West Fireworks LLC allowed the SFMO to bring inspectors, fire marshals, and other industry partners together to have tailored hands-on learning opportunities paired with classroom instruction. In 2024, there were 427 fireworks related incidents, including injuries and fires. Trainings like these are aimed at reducing the incidents in our communities and helping Washington State *Celebrate Safely*.



Ellensburg, WA, May 7, 2025



Oakville, WA, May 8, 2025



# Upcoming Courses Offered at the Fire Training Academy

Below is a list of available courses and testing dates offered at the Fire Training Academy (FTA.) If you are interested in attending, please contact the FTA at (425) 453-3000 or [FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov). For full course details, prerequisites, and updates, visit the Fire Training Academy website: <https://wsp.wa.gov/fire-training-academy/>

## In-Person Courses

### **Fire Control I**

July 19, 2025

### **Search and Rescue**

July 20, 2025

### **Driver/Operator- Pumper**

Dates: July 28 – August 1, 2025

Testing: August 2, 2025

**\*Capacity: 12 participants. Contact FTA to check availability or request another session.**

### **Driver/Operator- Pumper**

Dates: October 6-10, 2025

Testing: October 11, 2025

### **Hazardous Materials Technician**

Course Dates:

Week 1: November 3 – 7, 2025

Week 2: November 10 – 14, 2025

**\*Note: No training on November 11 (Veterans Day)**

Testing: November 15, 2025

## Online Courses (via WSU Registration)

### **Fire Officer III**

Registration/Payment Due: June 2, 2025

Zoom Introduction: June 3, 2025

Coursework: June 4 – 26, 2025

Testing: June 27, 2025

### **Fire Instructor I**

Registration/Payment Due: August 11, 2025

Zoom Introduction: August 12, 2025

Coursework: August 13 – September 3, 2025

In-Person Practice (Voluntary): September 4, 2025

Testing: September 5, 2025

### **Fire Officer I**

Registration/Payment Due: September 8, 2025

Zoom Introduction: September 9, 2025

Coursework: September 10 – 24, 2025

Testing: September 26, 2025

### **Fire Instructor II**

Registration/Payment Due: September 29, 2025

Zoom Introduction: September 30, 2025

Coursework: October 1 – 22, 2025

In-Person Practice (Voluntary): October 23, 2025

Testing: October 24, 2025

### **Fire Officer II**

Registration/Payment Due: October 27, 2025

Zoom Introduction: October 28, 2025

Coursework: October 29 – November 6, 2025

Testing: November 7, 2025



# Upcoming Courses Offered at the Fire Training Academy cont.,

## IFSAC Testing

### **Hazardous Materials Awareness**

Written and Practical: June 21, 2025

### **Hazardous Materials Operations**

Written and Practical: June 21, 2025

### **Firefighter I**

Live Fire: June 28, 2025

Written and Practical: July 5, 2025

### **Firefighter II**

Live Fire: June 28, 2025

Written and Practical: July 12, 2025



If a course you are interested in is not listed above, please contact the FTA at:

[FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:FireTrainingAcademy@wsp.wa.gov)



## **Important Notice: New Cancellation Policy Effective July 1, 2025**

To support the efficient scheduling and operation of the available training facilities, the FTA will implement a new cancellation policy and associated fee structure for facility use and scheduled training events.

This change will take effect July 1, 2025, and will apply to all new and existing reservations after that date.

This policy is intended to reduce last-minute cancellations and no-shows, which can significantly disrupt training operations and resource planning. We appreciate your continued partnership and understanding as we work to improve efficiency and ensure the best use of our training resources.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss upcoming reservations, please contact our scheduling team at (425) 453-3000. Additional details, including the fee structure, will be provided in the July 2025 Newsletter and communicated directly to all current reservation holders once finalized.

# Contact List

**STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
**Chad Cross**  
**[Chad.Cross@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Chad.Cross@wsp.wa.gov)**  
**(360) 596-3902**

## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

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(509) 969-4536

Plan Review Section  
Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal  
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Education, Enforcement, and Analytics Section  
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Professional Development and Response Section  
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## FIRE TRAINING DIVISION

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